***Living into God’s Dream: Dismantling Racism in America* by Dr. Catherine Meeks**

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| **Guest Book Discussion Leader Chapter 7 & 9**  **Hugh & Diane Davies** | \\USER-PC\Network Shared Folder\BC logo.JPG  **Live: 11/12 @ 2-3 PM**  **OR Online: 11/15 @ 7:30-8:30 PM** |

*For 6 weeks in October and November leaders from the community will guide both a live and online book discussion on* ***“Living into God’s Dream: Dismantling Racism in America****,” a collection of essays edited by Dr. Catherine Meeks. Each guest leader(s) has submitted a reflection on a chapter(s).*

Reflection (*The reflection for Chapters 7 & 9 are from Hugh and Diane Davies)*

**Chapter 7: Architects of Safe Space for Beloved Community**

This chapter speaks to the power of “story” and forming the “Beloved Community” and it is about opening our eyes and hearts by listening to each other’s story. It is about knowing people from the “other side” and appreciating their narrative and a willingness to step forward.

It is really summed up in the “Serenity Prayer”:

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,

Courage to change the things I can,

And wisdom to know the difference.”

*What are your stories around race relations, and having your eyes and heart opened, especially in the context of the serenity prayer? Have you listened to “the other side”?*

*When have you been confronted with your own unconscious prejudice?*

**Chapter 9: Getting Dismantling Racism Right in Atlanta**

In the last chapter, the writer pushes us to confront the awkwardness of bringing blacks and whites into conversation about race.

*How do we get whites to look beyond their natural response that they are not racist, and have them truly consider what white privilege means? How do we get blacks to avoid feeling that it’s a waste of time, and they have been this route before?*

We need to create a safe space for people to be comfortable to express their views. Our Episcopal Bishop Eugene Sutton has set the stage for parishes to address racism through the “Trail of Souls” project.

*Has this created a safe space for us? How? If not, what do we need to do now to create that safe space?*